(d) Efforts are a foot to make the areas technically feasible by increasing the capacity of exchanges, installation of new exchanges wherever necessary and laying underground cables wherever required as also introduction of WLL based technology in areas not accessible by underground cable.

Welfare Schemes for foodgrains supply

230. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the Welfare Schemes of Government in which FCI supplies foodgrains either free or at highly subsidized rates;

(b) whether the food supplied under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) scheme and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are being fully utilized by the States/UTs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PARASAD): (a) Foodgrains are not supplied free of cost by the FCI under any Welfare Scheme. However, foodgrains at subsidized rates are supplied by FCI under the following Welfare Schemes :

1. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
2. Mid-Day-Meal (MDM)
3. Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP)
4. Hostels and Welfare Institutions
5. Annapurna
6. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls

(b) The percentage offtake of foodgrains under TPDS (AAY, BPL and APL) during 2002-03 was as under:

AAY	BPL	APL
85.73	59.34	5.91

(c) The lifting of foodgrains (rice and wheat) by States/UTs under TPDS depends on several factors, the most important being the parity between the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) and the open market prices, availability of foodgrains in the open market, purchasing power of the consumers especially those belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, eating habits etc.